



## COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Reference No. 6.27

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, MAY 1973 (PRELIMINARY)

This bulletin contains statistics of industrial disputes for the month of May 1973 and some previous periods. More information about these disputes will appear later in the detailed quarterly mimeograph *Industrial Disputes* (Reference No. 6.6).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are now compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1. Statistics on this basis for the years 1968 to 1972 and for March quarter 1973 were published for the first time in the March quarter 1973 bulletin (Reference No. 6.6), which also contains details of the major changes that have resulted from the adoption of ASIC. (See paragraph 16 on page 4 of that bulletin.) The major changes to the industry classification used in the monthly bulletins were set out in paragraph 6 on page 2 of the April 1973 bulletin. Because of these and other changes in industry classification the statistics shown in Table 2 of this bulletin are not directly comparable with similar statistics appearing in monthly bulletins prior to the April 1973 issue, in quarterly bulletins prior to March 1973, and in *Labour Report* No. 56, 1971 (and earlier issues).

3. The statistics of industrial disputes refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are employees thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may be estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments but due to the same cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. A dispute involving workers in more than one industry in a State or Territory is counted only once in the number of disputes — in the industry that has the largest number of workers involved; but workers involved, working days lost and estimated loss in wages are allocated to their respective industries. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

5. For statistics of industrial disputes for earlier periods see *Labour Report* No. 56, 1971 (Reference No. 6.7). However, statistics of disputes classified by industry shown in that and earlier issues of the *Labour Report* are not directly comparable with the statistics classified by industry shown in this bulletin (see paragraph 2 above).

TABLE 1. — INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost (a) ('000)	Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)		
1968	..	1,713	..	720.3	1,079.5	12,115.2
1969	..	2,014	..	1,285.2	1,958.0	22,985.7
1970	..	2,738	..	1,367.4	2,393.7	30,883.3
1971	..	2,404	..	1,326.5	3,068.6	45,241.3
1972	..	2,298	..	1,113.8	2,010.3	32,074.4
1972 —						
May	292	315	206.4	213.2	266.6	4,189.3
June	219	241	75.8	79.9	167.9	2,616.2
July	229	236	75.4	77.6	244.5	4,111.0
August	195	233	220.7	235.3	356.0	5,651.9
September	185	199	112.1	214.6	188.9	3,040.5
October	207	213	77.5	80.7	137.2	2,303.5
November	210	230	77.8	83.7	170.8	2,777.6
December	109	121	24.2	29.0	53.2	933.7
1973 —						
January	153	153	39.9	39.9	82.1	1,365.7
February	278	290	59.2	66.8	248.4	4,095.9
March	268	300	73.9	82.7	231.7	3,941.6
April (b)	146	155	75.9	78.7	192.0	3,134.2
May (b)	212	223	100.4	113.6	304.3	5,026.5
1972 : January to May	..	944	..	450.2	691.8	10,640.0
1973 : January to May (b)	..	1,057	..	349.2	1,058.6	17,563.9

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period — see paragraph 4 above. (b) Subject to revision.

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2

TABLE 2. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES (a), AUSTRALIA  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (b)

Period	Manufacturing				Transport and storage; communication				All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment (c)	Other	Construction	Steve- doring services	Other			
	Coal	Other								
1968	61.1	67.7	423.5	116.1	118.3	77.3	155.7	59.7	1,079.5	
1969	76.1	76.9	643.6	267.1	264.4	136.2	286.4	207.3	1,958.0	
1970	178.4	76.5	625.9	440.9	618.3	148.3	156.7	148.8	2,393.7	
1971	251.6	83.2	636.7	317.7	1,109.5	73.9	300.1	295.9	3,068.6	
1972	60.8	62.0	620.2	393.7	407.8	39.2	205.2	221.3	2,010.3	
1972 -										
May	5.2	1.3	121.9	66.5	28.2	3.3	5.2	35.0	266.6	
June	10.9	10.0	31.8	24.8	13.8	9.8	61.7	5.2	167.9	
July	4.6	2.3	67.2	46.5	96.1	4.8	5.5	17.4	244.5	
August	4.3	2.1	136.9	66.0	100.5	1.7	39.5	5.0	356.0	
September	5.5	9.0	118.0	22.4	24.4	1.1	5.4	3.2	188.9	
October	4.6	5.2	33.7	24.9	43.5	3.4	5.3	16.7	137.2	
November	5.2	4.2	33.5	52.9	33.5	1.4	20.3	19.8	170.8	
December	1.1	1.2	11.9	14.3	3.4	3.0	9.3	9.2	53.2	
1973 -										
January	1.4	7.6	9.8	34.6	6.5	4.2	6.6	11.6	82.1	
February	8.4	11.5	37.5	133.3	23.2	1.5	14.9	18.0	248.4	
March	14.5	33.8	39.0	69.9	16.0	7.1	12.3	39.1	231.7	
April (d)	5.0	17.4	34.4	96.2	15.6	1.4	3.4	18.7	192.0	
May (d)	9.0	3.3	115.0	44.0	92.0	0.6	5.3	35.1	304.3	
1972 : January to May	24.7	28.0	187.2	142.0	92.6	14.1	58.3	144.8	691.8	
1973 : January to May (d)	38.4	73.6	235.7	377.9	153.4	14.8	42.4	122.5	1,058.6	

(a) Australian Standard Industrial Classification — see paragraph 2, page 1. (b) Refers to all disputes operative in the period — see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) Includes ASIC sub-divisions 29, 31, 32, 33. (d) Subject to revision.

NOTE. The figures in this table are not comparable with those published in monthly bulletins prior to the April 1973 issue. (See paragraph 2, page 1.)

TABLE 3. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1968	583.4	243.9	158.6	51.1	21.8	13.0	1,079.5
1969	743.8	717.2	238.6	129.0	101.4	9.9	1,958.0
1970	1,393.6	510.8	179.2	93.1	141.1	32.2	2,393.7
1971	1,887.5	689.6	271.4	111.2	69.4	20.6	3,068.6
1972	866.8	638.4	292.2	60.9	94.6	19.2	2,010.3
1972 -							
May	133.7	78.2	24.9	8.8	13.2	2.5	266.6
June	54.9	60.1	26.9	5.2	18.5	1.6	167.9
July	104.7	85.3	33.5	10.0	8.8	0.2	244.5
August	187.3	106.2	32.0	11.5	12.2	4.1	356.0
September	98.4	52.2	21.0	5.0	9.1	0.3	188.9
October	58.7	20.2	46.1	5.8	0.4	2.3	137.2
November	59.2	58.3	44.8	2.7	1.2	1.4	170.8
December	22.5	17.9	6.4	2.7	2.3	1.1	53.2
1973 -							
January	32.8	11.2	4.1	2.6	7.9	19.1	82.1
February	87.0	86.6	16.7	14.7	7.7	33.5	248.4
March	110.0	47.4	18.8	15.2	10.2	28.5	231.7
April (c)	42.9	92.8	18.2	5.7	11.7	9.5	192.0
May (c)	125.6	94.2	56.2	7.9	7.2	12.4	304.3
1972 : January to May	281.1	238.2	81.4	18.0	42.1	8.2	691.8
1973 : January to May (c)	398.4	332.1	113.9	46.1	44.9	103.1	1,058.6

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period — see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Subject to revision.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Laurie on 63 9111 extension 2055 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.